

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

97-55

Brian J. Blandford  
2625 Kenwood  
Hammond, IN 46323

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FEB 7 '97

97010018

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

November 23, 1996

Reed Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street NEW>  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Subject: Television Violence

Dear Mr. Hunt:

I have a concern about all the violence on television. I think every show should have a rating system like we have on movies in theaters. Did you know that the average child watches TV three to five hours a day? I know that soon we will have the V-Chip, but the parents still need to know how a show is rated because they can't be there to monitor every program their children watch.

Did you know that a child watches an average of 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence before they finish elementary school? The word from a 1982 report by the National Institute of Mental Health says "violent programs on television lead to aggressive behavior by children and teenagers who watch these programs".

So please look into this information and please consider rating the programs on television.

Sincerely,

*Brian J. Blandford*

Brian Blandford  
Student

BB/gb

HMB ENFORCEMENT  
COMPLAINT  
INVESTIGATION

JAN 7 10 36 AM '97

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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617 North E  
Eufaula, OK 74432  
November 13, 1996

Mr. Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am very concerned with the violence shown on television today. Too many television shows and movies have violence in them that are watched by young people everyday. The violence in television today needs to be limited to a certain degree.

I have read about executives trying to stop the violence in television. The TV executives have designed a V-chip to be programmed into the new television sets. The V-chip is designed to block out undesirable programs.

I think that the V-chip is a good start in trying to stop violence in television. The V-chip is already programmed in the new TV sets and ready to go. I also think that parents play an important role in this problem. They are the ones who have the children. I think parents should vote on the V-chip. Thank you for listening to my concerns about violence on television.

Sincerely,

*Shane Clanton*

Shane Clanton

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NOV 10 36 AM '97

Shane Clanton rec'd  
11/13/96

12/16/96

Colleen Stevenson

12558 Wedgwood Circle

Tustin, CA 92680

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COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARYRECEIVED  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF  
INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS  
DIVISION

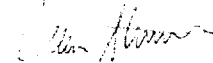
Dear Chairman Reed E. Hundt,

As a teenager in high school, television is a very important part of my life. Censorship has become a more and more prevalent issue in our society today, and I feel that rating television programs would only make the problem worse. I understand that from a parents point of view, they may want to know what kind of material a television program has, however, I think a parent could discover what is appropriate and what is not by using common sense. Rating television shows is like monitoring what you can and cannot do in your home. An age limit to certain shows may not even be relevant to the material at hand. I think you will agree with me that some children are more mature than others. Subject matter that is appropriate for that child should not be chosen by that child's age, but by their maturity.

Parents no longer need the responsibility of previewing what their child watches because the television does it for them already. Parents will no longer be as active in their child's viewing time and will now simply look up if the program is rated "G" or "PG". Although this may make a parent's job easier, it is lessening the family bond that a parent shares with their child in the programs they chose to view. Although I am only one high school student trying to protest this issue, I feel that I speak for many high school seniors who have just learned their political rights in Civics class. May I strongly urge you to over look what kind of household environment you are trying to create with this new rating system. Thank you very much for you time.

Sincerely,

Colleen Stevenson



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Marco Heredia  
4002 E. Palmyra  
Orange, CA  
92668

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97-55

December 17, 1996

FEB 7 '97  
9701011

Mr. Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street North West  
Washington, D.C  
20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
DEPARTMENT OF TARY

Dear Mr. Hundt:

It has come to my attention that the head of the TV industry's ratings implementation committee, Jack Valenti will be presenting his plan for a television rating system to you and your colleagues sometime in the near future. Giving your blessings to this newly created system would cause a major disturbance in the households of many working class citizens.

It's not that I disagree with the idea of a rating system for television; I disagree with Valenti's rating system. If passed this system would give parents insufficient information on the shows their children are watching. The rating system would mirror the same system used by the motion picture industry. For example, a television show with a rating of PG could possibly contain foul language, sexual content, and/or violence. Parents need to know exactly what their children are watching and this new rating strategy does not supply the viewer with definite data.

One of the most disturbing facts of the new rating procedure is the absence of televised sporting events from the list of show to be rated. Do the creators of the system feel it is better to expose young children to violent sporting activities, such as boxing, than to shows that help teach children to think for themselves? I would rather have my children watching a show that teaches the importance of family than having them starring at two men beating each other until one of the two contestants fall to the ground in overwhelming pain.

Without these changes, the television rating scheme fails to supply the parent with the sense of security it was originally intended to supply. Until the compromises are met I strongly urge you to reject Valenti's proposal of his incomplete rating system. I eagerly await your reply.

Sincerely,



Marco Heredia

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JAN 27 10 36 AM '97

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

January 12, 1997

Bellarmino Preparatory School  
2300 South Washington  
Tacoma, WA 98405

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FEB 7 '97

Renee Licht  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington DC, 20026

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Licht,

As part of a government project for Bellarmine Preparatory School in Tacoma, Washington, we, the undersigned, have chosen a topic revolving around the Telecommunications Act of 1996--specifically targeting the V-chip and the newly created rating system. Because of your position, we are certain you are equally interested in the topic and could be a viable source in assisting our research.

We are writing to express our discontent with the provisions for the implementation of the V-chip, in correlation with the newly established rating system, established with the Telecommunications Act. Our reason is simple: the V-chip is not specific enough to the problems of explicit television, and it is a weak attempt to mend a larger societal problem. In addition, we are concerned about further governmental involvement in the private sector, and possible infringement on First Amendment rights.

We would appreciate your support on this issue. In addition, any information you could send us in regard to the V-chip would be greatly appreciated. We can be reached by phone at (206)564-6072, or, if you wish to fax us, we can be reached at (206)564-2140. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

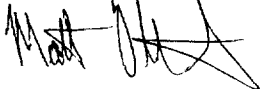


Erik Andreassen



Petros Koumantaros

Matthew Ottenbach



Michael Welch



July 16, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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97-55

Dear Chairman Hunt:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I am deeply concerned about the new "rating system" for TV programming, to be developed by the television industry or FCC for use in conjunction with a "V-Chip."

A "V-Chip" and rating system must NOT be an excuse for the TV industry to shift responsibility for establishing and enforcing sound program standards off of its own shoulders onto the shoulders of beleaguered parents OR for the FCC to not enforce the broadcast indecency law -- which, as you know, was again recently upheld by the Federal courts.

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Nor does TV reflect "reality" for the vast majority of the American people who, unlike all too many TV characters and guests on daytime talk shows, are not jumping from bed to bed with just about anyone other than a spouse OR engaging in one violent or antisocial act after the other OR constantly cursing OR going through life without any need for God. Even many "reality-based" programs are more fiction than fact.

Not that all TV programming is offensive or harmful. But, all too often, the TV industry serves its own interests, rather than the public interest, and reflects as "reality" the lifestyles and values of a small percentage of amoral or totally depraved individuals, rather than community standards and values. Ratings and a "V-Chip" may have their place, but not to "identify" a steady stream of cultural sewage packaged as TV "entertainment." The answer to this type of programming is to curb it at its source.

It has also been brought to my attention that Congress has instructed the FCC, "in consultation with appropriate public interest groups," to determine if rules established by the TV industry for rating TV programming are acceptable and, if not acceptable, to work with "appropriate public interest groups" in order to establish its own rating system.

In either case, I urge you to include Morality in Media [212-870-3222] as one of the "public interest groups." Founded in 1962, this national, interfaith organization has been at the forefront of efforts to uphold standards of decency on radio and TV.

Sincerely,

Bess T. Susan Dussette  
P.O. Box 1141  
Al. Albany NY 12208

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7 July, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEB 7 '97

97-55

Dear Chairman Hunt:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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The TV industry says it is giving the public what it wants and that programming merely reflects reality. But opinion polls and statements from prominent liberal and conservative spokespersons show that most people do not want a steady diet of gratuitous sex, violence and vulgarity on TV, either for themselves or their children.

Nor does TV reflect "reality" for the vast majority of the American people who, unlike all too many TV characters and guests on daytime talk shows, are not jumping from bed to bed with just about anyone other than a spouse OR engaging in one violent or antisocial act after the other OR constantly cursing OR going through life without any need for God. Even many "reality-based" programs are more fiction than fact.

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Sincerely,

Teresa Larkin

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Mr. Chairman Reed Hundt,

97010007

97-55

I am concerned about violent content in advertisements on television.

Ads for "R" rated movies come on during prime time, football games, talk shows, etc. The ads often show excess violence, and there is no warning for parents.

How will the new rating system address inappropriate ads shown during programming supposedly suitable for young viewers?

I can be reached at  
148 Ardith Drive  
Orinda, CA, 94563 4202

Sincerely,

Carmel Blore

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JAN 7 1997  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
INVESTIGATIVE

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEB 7 '97

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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Sincerely,

Bernice Grum

Page 1 of 1  
L. Hunter, FL 3464  
July 21, 1996  
97-55

97-55  
Oct 30, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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COMMISSION  
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Sincerely,

Mrs. Alvin Northcutt  
De Soto, MO

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List: ABCDE

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sept 16, 1996

97-55

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Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bowser

1 of 1 copies rec'd  
10/1/96

97-55

Sept 18, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Sincerely,

Joseph Patron

3 KRISTIN CIRCLE

DOWNINGTOWN, PA 19335

1  
TO: JUDGE

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97-55

Aug. 24, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

SEP 4 8 26 AM '96

ENFORCEMENT  
COMPLAINTS  
INVESTIGATION

FEB 7 '97

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Sincerely,

Cheryl Ann Lambert  
(Resident and voter in Pgh, PA)

January 30, 1997

Reed Hunt

Federal Communications Commission

1919 M St NW

Washington DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
CLERK

Dear Mr. Hunt,

I am writing in regards to the new television rating system. To be brief, I am against it. I do not feel the networks should make the rating decision. This is why we have so many questionable programs now.

I thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Ruth Seehofer

Ruth Seehofer

1200 N Olive

Abilene KS 67410

JAN 31 1997  
FBI/DOJ

97-55

January 25, 1997

RECEIVED

FEB 7 '97

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Mr. Reed Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Ste. 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Reed:

I'm very concerned about the recent decision to allow the television industry to rate television shows. I have seen Jack Valenti defend this system. I remember reading a few years ago that his salary with the motion picture industry is close to \$1 million a year. Could this affect his strong support of this confusing system? I'm sure it does.

As a caring citizen and grandmother I would urge a "Content Based Rating System". If we care about our young people, we should do all we can to make it easier, not more difficult, for parents to block out programs they find objectionable for their children.

Please stand strong for parents and children.

Sincerely,

*Marlene Bryce*

(Mrs.) Marlene Bryce  
16828 Cobblestone Drive  
Lynnwood, WA 98037

1  
16828 Cobblestone Drive  
Lynnwood, WA 98037

97-55

97-55

**Michelle Ganon**

1085 Galesmoore Court Westlake Village, California 91361 • 805.379.2520

January 5, 1997

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Chairman Reed Hundt  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

ABC

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Please implement a content based rating system for all television programs rather than an age-based one. The proposed age-based rating system is not as useful to me, a parent, as a content-based system, which would provide numerical assessments of violence, sex and adult language contained in each show.

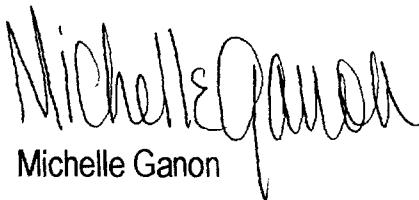
My specific concerns about an age-based system:

- It does not provide me with specific information about the content of individual programs.
- It assumes all children of a particular age range are of similar maturity.
- It lumps violence, sex, and language issues together, leaving me little insight as to why a show is rated as it is.
- It has been judged inadequate by 17 of 18 leading children's experts, according to a survey by Children Now.

I endorse your efforts to better inform parents about program content and appreciate the amount of extra work a content-based system would generate. However, the TV-PG rating, which is what I see on my screen most of the time, is virtually meaningless. The rating system won't be effective unless it truly differentiates programs from each other. Please work to ensure the rating system becomes a true tool for parents like me.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

  
Michelle Ganon

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COMPLAINTS  
INVESTIGATION

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Sylvia Schwartz  
P.O. Box 68  
Rock Hill, NY 12775-0068  
January 31, 1997

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FEB 7 '97

Mr. Reed Hunt  
FCC Chairman  
FCC  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Dear Mr. Hunt:

It is my understanding that the TV industry has come up with a rating system proposal which is inadequate. There is absolutely no way for a parent to know whether a program contains sex, violence or language and, therefore, cannot make a judgment as to what is appropriate for their children.

I oppose the proposed system and would like to see a content-based system with designations of V,S,L and a scale to designate levels/intensities of violence, sexual content or language. A similar system is already used in Canada, as well as on HBO and Showtime cable channels allowing parents to judge the suitability of material for their children.

The best monitoring tool possible for parents and caregivers rests with the V-chip and a content-based rating system. The FCC must dictate the design of the V-chip. If the V-chip is based upon the industry plan, content-based ratings will be precluded and parents will be denied the opportunity to use their judgment about what is appropriate for their children.

I feel it is incumbent upon the FCC to make sure that families get the proper information in order to protect their children.

Respectfully yours,

*Sylvia Schwartz*

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11/24, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Hunt:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

*I am deeply concerned about the new "rating system" for TV programming, to be developed by the television industry or FCC for use in conjunction with a "V-Chip."*

*A "V-Chip" and rating system must NOT be an excuse for the TV industry to shift responsibility for establishing and enforcing sound program standards off of its own shoulders onto the shoulders of beleaguered parents OR for the FCC to not enforce the broadcast indecency law -- which, as you know, was again recently upheld by the Federal courts.*

*Opinion polls have repeatedly shown that a large majority of the population are concerned about the glut of sex, violence and vulgarity on TV. A primary part of this concern is the effect on children and youth. But large numbers of adults are also personally offended and do not feel that TV shows represent their own values.*

*The TV industry says it is giving the public what it wants and that programming merely reflects reality. But opinion polls and statements from prominent liberal and conservative spokespersons show that most people do not want a steady diet of gratuitous sex, violence and vulgarity on TV, either for themselves or their children.*

*Nor does TV reflect "reality" for the vast majority of the American people who, unlike all too many TV characters and guests on daytime talk shows, are not jumping from bed to bed with just about anyone other than a spouse OR engaging in one violent or antisocial act after the other OR constantly cursing OR going through life without any need for God. Even many "reality-based" programs are more fiction than fact.*

*Not that all TV programming is offensive or harmful. But, all too often, the TV industry serves its own interests, rather than the public interest, and reflects as "reality" the lifestyles and values of a small percentage of amoral or totally depraved individuals, rather than community standards and values. Ratings and a "V-Chip" may have their place, but not to "identify" a steady stream of cultural sewage packaged as TV "entertainment." The answer to this type of programming is to curb it at its source.*

*It has also been brought to my attention that Congress has instructed the FCC, "in consultation with appropriate public interest groups," to determine if rules established by the TV industry for rating TV programming are acceptable and, if not acceptable, to work with "appropriate public interest groups" in order to establish its own rating system.*

*In either case, I urge you to include Morality in Media [212-870-3222] as one of the "public interest groups." Founded in 1962, this national, interfaith organization has been at the forefront of efforts to uphold standards of decency on radio and TV.*

Sincerely,

*Rosemary Grutt*

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FEB 7 '97

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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Opinion polls have repeatedly shown that a large majority of the population are concerned about the glut of sex, violence and vulgarity on TV. A primary part of this concern is the effect on children and youth. But large numbers of adults are also personally offended and do not feel that TV shows represent their own values.

The TV industry says it is giving the public what it wants and that programming merely reflects reality. But opinion polls and statements from prominent liberal and conservative spokespersons show that most people do not want a steady diet of gratuitous sex, violence and vulgarity on TV, either for themselves or their children.

Nor does TV reflect "reality" for the vast majority of the American people who, unlike all too many TV characters and guests on daytime talk shows, are not jumping from bed to bed with just about anyone other than a spouse OR engaging in one violent or antisocial act after the other OR constantly cursing OR going through life without any need for God. Even many "reality-based" programs are more fiction than fact.

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Sincerely,

Mary A. Schneider

1

Oct 25, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEB 7 '97

Dear Chairman Hunt:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Toffin  
6873 Buttonwood Court  
Frederick, Md. 21703

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97-55

Chairman Reed Hunt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEB 7 '97

ABC

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 3, 1997

Dear Mr. Hunt:

I am writing to inquire about the new "parent's guide" rating system.

After reading about the proposed system, I question why the system has to be so ambiguous. Why not just let parents know whether the show has violent, sexual, or strong language content versus the 6 categories as outlined in the Huntsville Times. TV-Y; TV-Y7; TV-PG, etc., doesn't at all make any sense to me.

As the Chairman of the FCC, hopefully you can assist the proponents of such a vague system to realize their oversight of common sense and produce a rating system which is understandable to the public at large.

Until the television industry comes up with more suitable programs, or develops a system which truly depicts what they are producing, I will continue to do what every parent should do in the first place - restrict my children from watching any programs which have no positive cultural, social, or moral qualities. In short, there are very few programs suitable for people, especially children, to view on TV.

I appreciate your feedback and how this commission will address and change a bogus system.

Thank-you for your time. Please mail your reply to my mailing address: 124 Chinook Trail, Madison, AL 35758.

Sincerely:

  
Hubert M. Fischer

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Ms. Donna E. Weaver  
213 Rosearden Drive  
Orlando, FL 32803

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December 18, 1996 FEB 7 '97

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Mr. Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I'm just a mad Mom. I'm not a right wing religious whacko, I'm just trying to do the best I can for our three children. I've thought of writing to you before, but tonight I was so appalled at what I saw on TV that I have to speak out.

I have been closely following the discussions on V chips and the TV ratings system and frankly don't have the least bit of faith in any of them. This evenings news was a prime example of what is the matter and why the above proposals won't do a thing to clean up TV and returning to "family hour" programming.

Now let me paint you a picture. This evening I go into the kitchen at 5:15p.m. to begin dinner and help the children finish up their homework. Millions of Moms all over America are doing the exact same thing. I would love to be able to watch the evening news while I am preparing dinner, but I can't if the children are in the kitchen because most of the material is disgusting, salacious, or just obscene. Tonight was no exception.

When I turned the TV on it was on the Fox network (WOFL) and there was a nude young man and woman in bed. It was immediately clear they did not know each other at all. They discuss whether they had had sex during their drug induced stupor. Then they get out of bed fighting over the covers since they are both naked and don't know each other. As she wraps herself in the sheet she says it feels as if her head is filled with dinosaur manure. Isn't this a great script for 5:15 in the evening? What impressions does a child get from this scene? Our 6 and 10 year old boys love the "dinosaur manure" remark. Is this the kind of garbage you would want your children to watch on TV?

I immediately change channels to the local NBC affiliate (WESH) where they are showing footage from San Francisco on S&M Barbie and Cross Dressing Drag Queen Ken. My little girl who is 6 years

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old LOVES Barbie. "What is S&M Barbie, Mommy?" Can you explain how a V Chip or a ratings system is going to help with this kind of programming? Why isn't our local station covering the search for a new school superintendent or the fact that our county commissioners just voted to double their salaries? Could this type of coverage explain why fewer Americans are watching the evening news?

Again I quickly change channels to the CBS affiliate (WOPX) and they are covering the big local story of the day. "The naked rapist has been captured and he is HIV positive. Lots of film footage. More shocking details at 5.30". Are you getting the picture? Am I wrong to be offended by this?

Since I am not one to sit and wait for others to act, I called Time Warner Cable. I called the Fox Network in Beverly Hills and complained. I called all three of the local networks involved, but couldn't get past their voice mail since it was 5:15 in the evening. I am now writing to you for help.

Please listen to me! There are real people out here and we are disgusted. With cable there are a lot of channels, but most of them are garbage (i.e. infomercials and preachers). I went to a stockholders meeting for Time Warner Cable and they positively crow about their huge profits, but they continue to raise their rates. Cable is a monopoly, I have no choice in carrier.

What else can I do? What can you and the FCC do? Television is such a powerful media for good or evil. Why does so much of it seem to be directed toward the evil, ugly and obscene? I am eagerly awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,

*Donna Weaver*

Donna Weaver

December 12, 1996

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ABC

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97-55

I believe the idea of giving TV shows ratings depending on content is a bad one for our society, for several reasons.

FEB 7 1997

One, the idea that parents can monitor what their children are watching on 57-channel plus TVs at any given time is really farfetched. Most of our children are home more than we are due to work, so that time can't be monitored well. Then if we are home but have several children, we may be bathing and getting some ready for bed while the others are watching TV. It is too much to ask a busy parent that they will be so informed about all these choices as to block out disturbing programming at the same time (yes, V-chips are also a bad solution). Disturbing programming should simply not be allowed at all, as has been the practice ever since the invention of TV. Adults who desire stronger fare can subscribe to pay channels or rent videos.

Two, the idea of ratings in movies has led to producers deliberately throwing in cursing, suggestive scenes, or violence, so as, in the words of a recent movie review, "to avoid the dreaded G rating." It is not hard to imagine that the same will happen on TV, with kids soon thinking it's not "cool" to watch shows that are NOT rated "TV-PG", "TV-PG-14" or worse. Otherwise well-written series which would be totally enjoyable for all will get the trash scenes thrown in to get a bad rating on purpose. TV was good when it was all TV-G, too, writers and editors just had some self-discipline. And kids model what they see on TV--I know because we did when we were kids. So this system allowing the bad language and foul talk will just create more headaches for teachers, coaches, and others trying to establish decent, respectful climates when conducting kids' activities. TV does not merely mirror society, it also helps to form (or de-form) it. This rating idea will serve to hasten TV's decline into sensational and vulgar trash and will serve as a cop-out flimsy cover behind which the executives will hide (don't complain about the murder and rape on that 8 pm show--didn't you see the rating?). Decent people don't want this.

TV is different from other media. People must deliberately go out to the movies or video stores, and only the drivers (parents or old teens) are able to get material. But channel surfing is easy for even preschoolers at home, while the parent may be well intentioned but momentarily distracted, or just unaware of which of the 57 channels at any given moment is showing something the toddler really shouldn't see. It's totally unrealistic to say that parents get the control; how can we know everything and be there at all times? I expect an even greater increase in filthy language and ideas among our young and it will not be the fault of the young but the fault of a society in which anything goes and so anything is imaginable. And after it is depicted graphically on TV, whether cannibalism, serial murder, or group sex (now with the ratings system, WHAT BOUNDARIES are in place to stop the sensation-seeking, profit-seeking programmers?), it becomes all that more thinkable to act out sometime. This is the main reason why TV should be kept reasonably clean, with at least as strong standards of censorship as prevail now and hopefully even stronger, because it takes a village (including an electronic village) to instill community standards. Any type of ratings system is going to inherently weaken society's standards and don't be surprised if behavior gets more and more coarse, vulgar, and disrespectful: it will be your (or all of our) fault for letting it happen.

Sincerely,

Richard Paul Moyer

243 Maytown Road

Elizabethtown, PA 17022

AME ENFORCED COMPLAINT

JAN 13 10 11 AM '97

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I SEE THEY'VE STARTED RATING ALREADY.

CAN WE HOLD THEM TO "TUG"-DAWN(5AM)

TARU 9:30 OR 10:00 PM?

OR WILL THESE TIMES BE REMEMBERED AS WHEN WE TOOK A HUGE SLIDE INTO THE VULGAR TRASH?

SEE WILL'S COLUMN, PLEASE.